INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte ial Application No PCT/IB2004/003599

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G12B21/02 G12B G12B21/08 G01B7/34 G01B11/30 G01B5/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G12B G01B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 245 863 A (OKADA TAKAO ET AL) 1-7 21 September 1993 (1993-09-21) abstract; figures 1,7,9 column 2, lines 63-66 column 4, lines 54-56 X VIANI M B ET AL: "SMALL CANTILEVERS FOR 1-7 FORCE SPECTROSCOPY OF SINGLE MOLECULES" JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US. vol. 86, no. 4, 15 August 1999 (1999-08-15), pages 2258-2262, XP000934881 ISSN: 0021-8979 abstract; figures 1,2 page 2258, column 1, lines 29-31 page 2259, column 1, lines 28-30 page 2259, column 2, lines 3-13 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the International search Date of mailing of the international search report 14 March 2005 21/03/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Popovici, M

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